CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   Apparatus for controlling at least one appliance within a vehicle, said device comprising:

5   a command recognition module having a command data set and adapted to:

    receive a handwritten signal,

    associate said handwritten signal with at least one command in said command data set for controlling said at least one appliance, and

    communicate a command signal associated with said command to said appliance.

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2.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said command recognition module includes a microphone and a voice recognizer operatively connected to said microphone to:

    receive a voice signal, and

    associate said voice signal with said at least one command in said command data
15   set for controlling said at least one appliance.

3.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said command recognition module includes a touchpad and a handwriting recognizer operatively connected to said touchpad to receive said handwritten signal.

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4.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said command recognition module includes:

    a microphone and a voice recognizer operatively connected to said microphone to:

    receive a voice signal, and

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associate said voice signal with said at least one command in said command data

set for controlling said at least one appliance; and

a touchpad and a handwriting recognizer operatively connected to said touchpad to

receive said handwritten signal.

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5.   The apparatus of claim 1 including:

said command data set having a plurality of commands; and

a main module operatively connected to said command recognition module and

operative to communicate said command signal to said at least one appliance.

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6.   The apparatus of claim 5 including:

an appliance interface connected between said at least one appliance and said main

module and adapted to communicate said command signal to said appliance.

15   7.   The apparatus of claim 6 including:

a microphone and a voice recognizer operatively connected to said microphone to:

receive a voice signal, and

associate said voice signal with said at least one command in said command data

set for controlling said at least one appliance; and

20   a touchpad and a handwriting recognizer operatively connected to said touchpad to

receive said handwritten signal.

8.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said command data set includes alphanumeric

characters.

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9.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said command data set includes symbolic characters.

5   10.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said at least one appliance is a cellular telephone and said command data set includes cellular telephone commands and alphanumeric characters.

11.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said at least one appliance is a personal

10   computer and said command data set includes computer instructions and alphanumeric characters.

12.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said command data set is associated with a predetermined set of voice signals.

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13.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said command data set is associated with a predetermined set of handwritten signals.

14.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said command data set is associated with a

20   predetermined set of handwritten and voice signals.

15.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said command data set is associated by a user with at least one voice signal.

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16.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said command data set is associated by a user with at least one hand signal.

17.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said command data set is associated with
5   handwritten and voice signals modifiable by said user.

18.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said appliance is a car alarm.

19.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said device connects to a plurality of
10   appliances and said main module and appliance interface cooperatively distribute said command signals to said appliances.

20.   A method of controlling an appliance within a vehicle comprising the steps of:
        providing a command recognition module having a command data set including a
15   touchpad and a handwriting recognizer operatively connected to said touchpad;
        receiving handwritten signals;
        associating said handwritten signal with at least one command in said command data set for controlling said at least one appliance, and
        communicating a command signal associated with said command to said
20   appliance.

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